

For immediate release

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Horniman's 'Beat Plastic Pollution' wins Museums + Heritage Award

Last summer's **Beat Plastic Pollution** pop-up Aquarium display at the Horniman Museum and Gardens has won a Museums + Heritage Award, at a special online ceremony last night (Tuesday 22 September 2020).

The display ran from 8 June to 1 August 2019, and featured more than 150 items of single-use and waste plastic inserted into the Horniman's permanent aquarium exhibits, alongside information about the impact plastic has on aquatic creatures, and actions visitors could take to reduce this harm. One of the Horniman's best-loved displays – the jellyfish – was replaced by around 30 plastic bags, commonly mistaken for jellyfish in the ocean and, fatally, eaten by sea turtles.

Praised by judges as 'imaginative, clever, beautifully done, with content crowdsourced from its own staff', **Beat Plastic Pollution** was crowned Limited Budget Project of the Year. It is one of 15 winners of the 18th Museums + Heritage Awards, which celebrate the most innovative and ground-breaking initiatives of the last year from museums, galleries and heritage visitor attractions across the UK and overseas. Highly commended in the same category was the Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery, in Alnwick, Northumberland, for its **100 Years of Fashion**.

Michelle Calvert, Deputy Aquarium Curator at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'This was a real passion project for me and the Aquarium team, and the whole of the Horniman got behind us, as it's such an important part of what we believe – to reduce plastic pollution.'

Anna Preedy, Director of the annual Museums + Heritage Awards commented: 'Being able to share such great news, in announcing the winners of the 2020 Museums + Heritage Awards, has been a real privilege. As we work together to recover, these Awards are a timely reminder of the exceptional creativity and determination of this sector, characteristics which are demonstrated so well by all of our winners.'

Ends

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Museums + Heritage Awards 2020:

- **Innovation of the Year sponsored by Squint Opera**
Winner: Harewood House Trust - A Night at the Mansion

- **Individual Volunteer of the Year in partnership with the Association of Independent Museums**
Winner: Joseph Stuart Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums
Highly Commended: Lin Wylie, Thame Museum ; Nick Thompson, The Lightbox
- **Volunteer Team of the Year in partnership with the Association of Independent Museums**
Winner: Worsbrough Mill Youth Action Volunteers, Barnsley Museums
Highly Commended: The Pickling Project Volunteers, St Albans Museums
- **Sustainable Project of the Year sponsored by the National Lottery Heritage Fund**
Winner: Museum of Oxford - Queering Spires: a history of LGBTIQ+ spaces in Oxford
Highly Commended: Natural History Museum - Ornithological building at Tring
- **Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year sponsored by Displayways**
Winner: London Transport Museum - Hidden London Exhibition
Highly Commended: Ceredigion Museum - Sheep; Royal Collection Trust - Leonardo da Vinci: Life in Drawings
- **Shop of the Year – turnover more than £500k**
Winner: The National Trust for Scotland - Transforming Retail at Culloden Battlefield
- **Shop of the Year – turnover less than £500k**
Winner: The Charleston Trust - Created for Charleston
Highly Commended: Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret - The OOT Shop
- **Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year**
Winner: Plymouth City Council (The Box) and Orbis Conservation - The Box Naval Figureheads Collection
Highly Commended: Didcot Railway Centre - 2999 "Lady of Legend" - Recreating a GWR "Saint" Class Loco; Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust - The Fitted Rigging House
- **Permanent Exhibition of the Year**
Winner: English Heritage - Tintagel Castle Bridge & Landscape Project
Highly Commended: Aberdeen City Council Museums and Galleries Aberdeen Art Gallery - Inspiring Art and Music
- **Partnership of the Year**
Winner: York Art Gallery and Kaiser Chiefs - When All is Quiet: Kaiser Chiefs in Conversation with York Art Gallery.
Highly Commended: Oxford University Gardens, Libraries & Museums (GLAM) - GLAM and Iffley Academy Partnership
- **Marketing & Communications Strategy of the Year**
Winner: Imperial War Museum North - Yemen: Inside a Crisis
Highly Commended: Castle Howard Skelf Island - The Launch of a New Adventure Playground
- **Limited Budget Project of the Year**
Winner: Horniman Museum and Gardens - Beat Plastic Pollution
Highly Commended: Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery - 100 Years of Fashion
- **Learning Programme of the Year**
Winner: Leeds Museums and Galleries - Careers for All: meaningful work experience for young people with additional needs
Highly Commended: National Justice Museum - Choices and Consequences
- **International Project of the Year with a budget of >£1m**
Winner: OMM - Odunpazarı Modern Museum
- **International Project of the Year with a budget of <£1m**
Winner: Studio Louter, OPERA Amsterdam and The Mauritshuis Shifting Image - In Search of Johan Maurits
Highly Commended: The Partition Museum, Amritsar and Manchester Museum - Jallianwala Bagh 1919: Punjab Under Siege

For more information, please visit <https://awards.museumsandheritage.com>

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Notes to Editors:

- The **Beat Plastic Pollution** display was created in support of the European Commission's World Aquariums #readytochange to #beatplasticpollution campaign and was timed to coincide with World Oceans Day on 8 June 2019.
- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – the Museum reopened to the public on 30 July 2020. Social distancing and other safety measures are in place, including a one-way visitor route, and visitors should wear face coverings unless they have good reason not to. **Visitors (including Members) need to pre-book at horniman.ac.uk for a free, timed entry slot.** Some attractions including the Aquarium and Butterfly House remain closed. The Horniman Gardens have been open throughout the pandemic and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to [social distancing guidance](#) in the Gardens.

- **Opening times** – the Museum and Café are open from 10am to 5.30pm daily. Visits to the Museum are free but must be booked in advance at horniman.ac.uk. The Gardens are open from 7.15am (Monday to Saturday) or 8am (Sunday and Bank Holidays) until dusk.
- **Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, fish and other animals, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at horniman.ac.uk.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).